

Below please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council, the staff, and the community:

### **Council Business**

- *Blizzard Warning* – The National Weather Service has issued a blizzard warning for a major storm to hit our area tomorrow, March 14, 2017. We will likely experience heavy snow with blizzard conditions, with snow fall rates of 2-4 inches per hour. Total snow accumulation could exceed 20 inches, and we may see power outages due to strong wind and heavy snow on power lines. Town and school facilities will be closed tomorrow, and we encourage residents to shelter in place until storm conditions have abated. Town staff will engage in snow removal operations, and we will open warming centers or a shelter if needed, following the conclusion of the storm.
- *Agriculture Committee Event Rescheduled* – The Agriculture Committee's event scheduled for tomorrow, March 14, 2017, has been postponed due to weather concerns. Staff will inform the Council once a new date has been selected.
- *FY 2017/18 Operating Budget and CIP* – As a reminder, I plan to present my Proposed FY 2017/18 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to the Town Council at a special meeting scheduled for 5:30 PM on March 27, 2017. We will hold a number of budget sessions during the last week of March and through the month of April. Residents can find information regarding the current year budget and next year's proposed budget at <http://open.mansfieldct.org/>
- *Ad Hoc Committee on Police Services Update* – The Ad hoc Committee on Police Services met last week and intends to present an interim report to the Town Council at the March 27, 2017 meeting.
- *Ad Hoc Committee on Rental Regulations and Enforcement Update* - The Ad hoc Committee on Rental Regulations and Enforcement met last week and intends to present an final report to the Town Council at the March 27, 2017 meeting.
- *School Facility Planning for Mansfield Public Schools* – The special meeting of the Council tentatively scheduled for March 14 at 5:30 PM to participate in a focus group hosted by DMGroup has been postponed due to weather. The new meeting date has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 5 from 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM. Please let us know if the Council has any issues with the new date. As you will recall, during the 2015-16 school year the Mansfield Board of Education (MBOE), with much input from our community, articulated a vision and strategic plan for the Mansfield Schools. Mansfield Public Schools is now partnering with District Management Group (DMGroup), a Boston-based firm, to assist in the development of a long-term vision and aspirational goals for our facilities to best meet the needs of today's learners. As part of this project, DMGroup will assist Mansfield in gathering information, opinions, and perspectives from district staff, families, and the community about current performance and needs, as well as their aspirations for the future of Mansfield Public Schools. Information will be gathered through focus groups and interviews, and will include some open forum, town hall-style meetings with the public. Based on the information gathered from all constituents, an appointed committee will then help develop the aspirational goals and vision for the future of Mansfield Public Schools. Once a draft vision and goals has been developed by the committee, this will be shared with the broader community through multiple feedback sessions to allow district staff, students, families, and community members the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions. After incorporating this feedback and finalizing the plan, key steps for successful implementation of the defined vision and goals will be identified.

### **Departmental Reports**

- Town Manager's Office
  - *Pally case* - As requested, I have included a copy of the arrest warrants issued by the Connecticut State Police concerning an investigation into the death of UCONN student Ms. Jeffny Pally early on the morning of October 16, 2016. I also wish to inform you that Town staff has issued a Notice of Zoning Violation to the property owner of 51 Baxter Road in Mansfield, for a violation of the zoning regulation on fraternity/sorority houses. Some hours prior to her death, Ms. Pally had attended an event sponsored by the Kappa Sigma fraternity

at 51 Baxter Road. Fraternities and sororities are not permitted to host events in neighborhoods zoned RAR 90 (Rural Agricultural Residence, 90,000 sq. ft.).

- *Police update* – I have invited Resident Trooper Supervisor SGT Richard Cournoyer to attend the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Town Council to provide a brief update on planned off-campus enforcement activities for the balance of the spring semester. Given the busy schedule for that meeting, I request that the Council move SGT Cournoyer towards the start of the meeting.

### **Upcoming Events**

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – Eat local all winter long! Storrs Farmers Market offers locally-grown vegetables, meats, cheeses, and more year-round. Storrs Winter Farmers Market is open twice a month in the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Public Library from 3:00 – 5:00 PM on the following dates: March 18, April 8, and April 22. Learn more at: [storrsfarmersmarket.org](http://storrsfarmersmarket.org).

### **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Youth Services Advisory Board, March 14, 2017, 12:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, March 15, 2017, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, March 16, 2017, 8:30 AM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Parks Advisory Committee, March 16, 2017, 6:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, March 20, 2017, 5:45 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, March 20, 2017, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ad Hoc Committee on Police Services Special Meeting, March 21, 2017, 5:30 PM, Senior Center Computer Room (303 Maple Road)
- Committee on Committees, March 21, 2017, 6:30 PM, Town Clerk's Office, Vault, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Open Space Preservation Committee, March 21, 2017, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, March 23, 2017, 8:30 AM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, March 23, 2017, 5:30 PM, Mansfield Community Center Conference Room (10 South Eagleville Road)
- Special Town Council Meeting, March 27, 2017, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, March 27, 2017, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

*\*Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*